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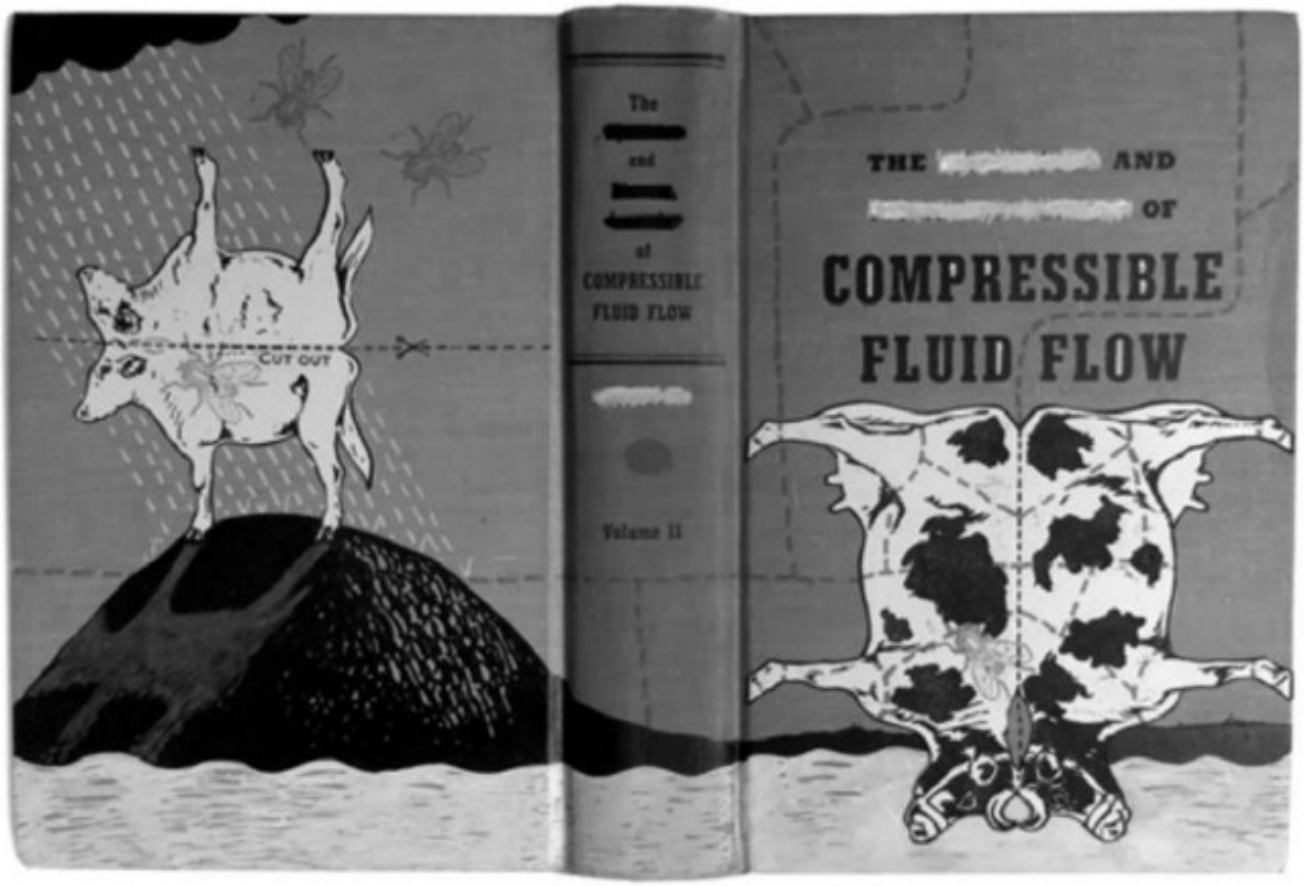

INTERVIEW: JACKIE BATEY

Gretchen King interviews artist Jackie Batey about her artistic process and influences.

The Internet has a magical way of taking one down the rabbit hole during an innocent image search. This holds true with my recent discovery of UK based artist Jackie Batey. While doing a Google image search for 'vintage b&w zines' I clicked on an image that intrigued me. This led me down the rabbit hole that turned out to be Jackie's collection of work. Jackie makes books and zines. Jackie makes whatever she wants with whatever she wants. Her work is a collage of materials, thoughts, and dualities. Her strength is how it all come together to form a cohesive style and a glimpse into the inner workings of her mind.

Whilst searching online for vintage zines, one of your image covers 'Damp in Ditchwater' came up. I clicked on it thinking it was actually vintage and was taken to your site with all of your amazing work. Could you tell me a bit about your creative process?

I use sketchbooks a lot. I carry one around most of the time. I also collect envelopes, stickers, and keep scraps in the back of the book ready to use. I carry a pencil case with felt pens, fountain pens, pencils and glue. I draw on my commute to work (if I'm not asleep) and I do write lots of lists and notes for myself to follow. I have an ipad now, so I have tried making notes digitally but I keep coming back to my lovely paper sketchbook.

I plan in a sketchbook then draw or play on Photoshop, sometimes I collect together lots of photos I've taken previously. I have a studio in my home where I tend to have lots of things on the go, and it takes a while before one of them comes to the surface and I actually finish it. I love stationery and materials; I can't pass an art shop without buying a nice pen. When I'm on holiday I visit stationery shops to see if there's any nicer staplers or materials. I am a bit obsessive about pens and art materials. Ideas wise, I read lots and watch lots of films, visit exhibitions, travel etc. I do tend to react to the world around me. I'm more creative when I'm irritated at something.

And who are a few of people that have directly influenced you?

Visually : Le Dernier Cri (French horror comic screenprinters), Richard Hamilton, Modern Toss, Sidney Nolan, and Jenny Holzer. For Text: Joseph Conrad, Herman Mellville, John Milton, Agatha Christie, and Dorothy L Sayers.

I've noticed your work incorporates a lot of imagery from vintage ads and magazine covers. How did you first get started in creating art, and what led you to incorporating this retro imagery?

This all started pretty much when I started my PhD. I had used some collage before but I had (and still have) great access to an archive in Brighton (The Culture Archive) that is FULL of this kind of material. The Curator is a friend of mine and kindly puts aside things that he can't use because of their condition but I can. I also scour second hand shops and charity shops for old paper, withdrawn library books and other magazines that can be cut up. Although it took me ages (years) to actually be able to cut up a vintage magazine. I tried scanning pages and playing in Photoshop but it doesn't work for me. I NEED to play with the real materials/ textures.

On your website, you speak of creating digital versions of your books and zines for iPads and e-readers. Will this be a natural transition, or are you finding any struggles within this process?

I'm used to computers, I used to work a bit on programming CDroms, so I'm comfortable in a digital format. However, I just prefer the tactility of making pictures with glue, pens and paper. I'd like people to see what I make so by getting it online and available in various versions it expands my potential audience. I prefer the REAL books but I know lots of folk like viewing things via a screen so I'm happy to make it so they can. I have recently started using an e-reader and I find I read more now, both in paper and digitally. The nice bit about the e-reader is I can make the type huge and not have to wear glasses in bed but it doesn't smell as nice as an old Agatha Christie with brown edged pages and a flaky perfect bind.

Ah – the inviting musty smell of an old bookshop! As an artist myself, I'm always curious how people interpret my work. The feedback is unpredictable, and the odd time they will notice something I was not at all focused on. What is one thing that you hope the audience gets from your work?

I would like people to find humour in the work to reward the viewing but I'd like people to think about how we are manipulated by the media/

...CONT.

society. In some books the aims may vary, but generally I have some social angle. Even in a book I made called READ themed around 'Our Mutual Friend' by Charles Dickens that was supposed to celebrate 200yrs of the birth of Dickens. I chose to include a quote about the act of reading – reading as empowerment. Since I believe literacy is so important to individuals. So I do think it's important to make work about 'something' I'm not making pictures for no reason. It's my primary method of communication.

Anxiety is one mood that seems to be a recurring theme in your work. Is this something that you struggle with? If so, do you have any advice for our readers on what you do to deal with it?

No, I don't really have an issue with it but I think that I can alleviate my issues by drawing them down on paper. I think there's a catharsis in making pictures. It's like exorcising a demon: once it's on paper it loses it's power. I think writing down dialogue, even arguments, can help to clear the mind. I find I do get edgy if I don't draw for a while so it obviously helps me keep relaxed. I find the same with humour – when I get stressed if I can laugh it calms me down again. So laughing (if possible) and drawing (doesn't matter if they're good or not) can really help calm the mind. I also like walking as that clears the fluff out of my head. With drawing it's hard to think and draw at the same time, so it can act to silence internal chatter during moments of stress.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. FOR THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK. FOR MORE ON JACKIE'S WORK, HEAD TO DAMPFLAT.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK, FUTUREFANTASTEEK.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK OR PALEIREPRESS.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK

INTERVIEW: LA LUZ

Lauren Mayberry spoke to Marian Li Pino, drummer of Seattle band La Luz, around their Glasgow tour date earlier this month.

BORING INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS: HOW DID THE BAND GET TOGETHER?

Shana [Cleveland; guitar] and I were in a band together previously, and she had been thinking about making a surf rock band for a while. She asked me to join when the other band broke up, and eventually we got Alice [Sandahl; keyboard] and Lena [Simon; bass] on board.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR SONGWRITING PROCESS.

Shana writes the core of the songs and brings it to us, then we kind of hash out our parts and vocals and watch the songs grow from there.

HOW DID YOU ALL GET INTO MUSIC IN THE FIRST PLACE?

In my opinion, we four are all inherently musicians. I don't think any of us could possibly be interested in anything more than what we're doing right now.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE RECORDING THE DAMP FACE EP AND IT'S ALIVE? WHEN AND WHERE DID YOU MAKE THEM?

We recorded both the EP and LP in a trailer park with our good friend Johnny Goss. He's amazing to work with and understands what we're looking for in terms of sound. Recording is a fun process, but for one reason or another we've kind of flown through both our recording sessions (in comparison to how long the process usually takes). I'm looking forward to really taking our time with the next album and not having to be constricted by deadlines of any sort.

DOES IT GET BORING WHEN PEOPLE ASK YOU ABOUT THE SEATTLE MUSIC SCENE IN INTERVIEWS ALL THE TIME? WHAT (MIS) CONCEPTIONS DO YOU THINK PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT THE SCENE AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY ABOUT IT?

We get asked the same questions a lot, it's true. We just kind of take it in stride and recognize that it's part of our job. I can't really say for sure what misconceptions people have, as they usually ask us rather than speculate. In a nutshell, the Seattle music scene is vast, interwoven, talented, and supportive.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHER WOMEN WANTING TO DO WHAT YOU DO?

Know exactly what you want, practice / play often, use your brain, be professional, enjoy it, never quit.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. FOR THE FULL ARTICLE, HEAD TO TYCI.ORG.UK. FOR MORE ON LA LUZ, VISIT LALUZBAND.TUMBLR.COM.

WHY I ♥ : CAGNEY AND LACEY

Emily Molloy shares her love for crime fighting duo Cagney and Lacey.

There seems to have been a resurgence in old re-runs on ITV recently, including my personal old school 80s faves Cagney and Lacey. I was too young the first time it came out, but I have been loving, when I've got the chance, the repeats on television over the last year. It makes me almost glad that TV companies can't afford to come up with some 'original programming'...

Apart from some amazing shoulder pads and fantastic Lady Di-esque hair dos, we are talking about two kick-ass ladies from different backgrounds, pushed together to fight crime (and a lot of misogyny along the way). From family problems with alcoholism to sexual harassment in the workplace, these tough ladies have seen it and been through it all.

In one traumatising episode in series seven, Christine Cagney is raped. She goes through the different emotions and feelings of hopelessness, as a sympathetic Lacey looks on. Christine blames herself and realises that because of her lack of bruises, even her colleagues wouldn't believe her. Harrowing television to say the least, particularly at a time when rape wasn't talked about, pre-dating the Eastenders Christmas episode some years back, when Little Mo got raped. The episode well directed and well scripted, the producers handling impeccably an extremely sensitive issue.

The show brought feminist issues to the forefront. They were modern women living and working in a male-dominated environment. They didn't need to pretend to be macho as they had each other and the audience is privy to their conversations in the toilets as they re-apply their lipstick or dry up their tears after a pretty horrendous day. The show was cut not long after its inception but returned to screen after public pressure stemming from feminists outraged at CBS claims that they

'perceived them as dykes', not liking their tough attitude.

After a reshuffle of air time, ratings went up. Cagney and Lacey began being nominated and winning awards left right and center. It is now standard for there to be senior female detectives on a case in any modern detective shows like Silent Witness, Bones, Law and Order, Cold Case, X Files - you get the drift. The presence of serious crime fighting women on our screens who are not intended as mere eye candy for male viewers has and will continue to impact upon on whether women - in particular young women - see themselves as playing a valuable role in society.

FOR MORE IN OUR WHY I HEART SERIES, HEAD TO TYCI.ORG.UK.

INTERVIEW:

Alyssa Asomani is the founder and editor-in-chief of The Stud Magazine based in Toronto, Canada. Catherine Gifford speaks to Asomani about her views and opinions on gender and sexuality.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR WORK.

There's not much to Alyssa. I've been working in the community for eight years and started this magazine. Basically, I want to uphold masculine women. There's a lot of connotation towards the word "stud." This magazine brings me a lot of confidence and puts me on a platform of confidence as well. Toronto's moving pretty quickly. I'm learning as well. I did some research just talking to older masculine women and I remember thinking, "Where are the people of colour? Why am I not seen?" Studs were this newer generation of individuals that describe themselves as such. But there's negativity around them. They're seen as very dominant. I wanted to understand what that meant. I wanted to redefine the term. I don't see these individuals in these high fashion magazines. With people of diversity, I'm not seeing that in mainstream media.

WHAT AGGRAVATES YOU THE MOST ABOUT MODERN-DAY SOCIETY AND HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER?

I feel like there's a bit of a gap in terms of society. We think our understanding's to par. We use the umbrella terms and think we know it all. But we don't really take the time to understand one another. When, y'know, you hit the spectrum,

there is so much. There are even spectrum within the spectrum. There have been instances where studs have had an entrance into mainstream media. When we have representation, it's negative. There's a very small amount, when it's touched upon. Only the extremes.

WHAT DOES THE WORD 'STUD' MEAN TO YOU?

For me, it just means like, women who blur society's view of gender. They're often who display masculine qualities. Those lines are kind of blurred as well. So, somebody who falls on the spectrum of masculinity, non-gender conforming females. There's a very long line on the spectrum of masculinity. There can be a "soft stud." There can be spectrum within the spectrum. Every woman would have to decide for herself. There's a lot of talk about gender. We don't talk about our families. The love we have for femmes and our partners. We really love who we love. We're trying to correct these negative connotations. We're respecting the people that we love. Individuals who are in loving relationships, friends that are in loving relationships- we're just trying to break the negativity.

WHY DID YOU START THE STUD MAGAZINE? WHAT'S THE IDEA BEHIND IT? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO WITH IT?

We've gotten our stuff out there, talking about our experiences as masculine women and make it relatable. We want to push the envelope. Redefine the term and introduce non-conformity women into mainstream media so if mainstream media tries to do something like this, they'll know how. The envelope is slowly lifting. We just want to promote stud culture and identities. The team. We go back and forth to make it amazing. The photographers make all of the models feel comfortable in all of our shoots. When I was growing up as a young masculine female, I wasn't very aware of where I was, how I identify, and have conversations with people about it. There's this community that we've been establishing. I'm proud of these women doing things in the community… It's a really powerful and a really cool thing to notice.

IF YOU WERE TO GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF GOING THROUGH ALL OF THIS STUFF ADVICE NOW, AFTER ALL THAT YOU'VE LEARNED, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Well, for starters, I would probably listen to my intuition. I had a lot of conversations with myself. I would listen to myself and not doubt myself. Comfort is key. You have to shape your own masculinity. I used to play basketball with a lot of guys and I started to shape my masculinity around the things that they did, even if I didn't like it and it wasn't good. Parts of me that weren't really me started to shed and the true me emerged. It wasn't an act and later on it was easier for me to be who I was. Being a masculine female was very much enough. It was good.

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT THESTUD-MAGAZINE.COM.

FIVE THINGS:

FIVE OF THE WEIRDEST FEMSLASH COUPLINGS

For the latest instalment in Catriona Reilly and Ciara Maguire's Five Things series, we discuss the five weirdest Femslash couplings.

I don't read fan fiction, and when I do, it's usually because someone has sent me some bearing the caption 'lol wut?' therefore I write the following as an observer (don't take offence, basically). Most internet users will be aware of what fan fiction is (fan written fiction based on an existing story / universe / character) but you might not be so familiar with Slash fiction. This offshoot of Fanfic basically focuses on the romantic relationships of two characters and Femslash is, unsurprisingly, slash concerning the pairing of two female characters. This is something which is found quite frequently throughout the Slash world which is not unusual considering that the majority of Fanfic writers are female, apparently. So for the purpose of this article I tracked down the five weirdest Femslashes.

1. LISA SIMPSON / JULIETTE HOBBS - THE SIMPSONS

In an episode which bears tinges of Peter Jackson's Heavenly Creatures, Lisa becomes close friends with a character called Juliette who she then constructs an escapist, fantasy world with. This femslash basically takes the original plot of the episode and adds some dreamyily romantic, epiphanic winching. Which is of course is how all first kisses are, not at all like equine lip mashing sessions fuelled by 3 litres of cider in a damp suburban park.

2. SLEEPING BEAUTY / LARA CROFT - FAIRY TALE & TOMB RAIDER

In short, Lara is basically on a mission to find the some magnificent treasure located in a castle and it's Sleeping Beauty's birthday (I'm not sure why that's relevant but I only skim-read three sentences of it so I guess that is probably explained somewhere

in the text). Lara finds the castle goes HAM at the princesses beauty and kisses her awake. It's basically a remake, like one of those awful American Japanese film remakes. I don't know about you but even with her exaggerated proportions, the only thing I ever wanted to do with Tomb Raider was to blow her up with that cheat code that never worked (and make her lock the butler in the fridge). Simpler times.

3. DANA SCULLY / MONICA REYES - X FILES

As you can imagine there is A LOT of Scully femslash, but curiously I have yet to find any slash where she bangs a lady alien. The majority of Scully's pairings involve Mulder's replacement character, Monica Reyes in mundane romantic clichés as well as some tantalising crossovers from shows such as CSI:Miami, Law & Order, Stargate SG 1 and Birds of Prey. There are only so many times I can read about lip biting and tender glances, the only thing I look at tenderly is meat. Sadly there are also no crossovers with quality TV shows such as the Golden Girls or Diagnosis Murder. Really, if it was realistic femslash it would Scully/Reilly.

4. MARGARET THATCHER / FRANCESCA VECCHIO - POLITICS

If you thought the dark, disturbing horrors of the internet resided in the recesses of the Deep Web YOU WERE SORELY MISTAKEN. I thought that, having been raised by the PlayStation and a combination of early adulthood E4 Friends / Scrubs re-runs and current day Netflix marathons, my imagination had rotted to nothingness. No, that image of Maggie's pursed lips smothered in dark

plum lipstick (apparently 'good shade' for the Milk Snatcher) is burnt onto the inside of my eyelids.

5. JESSICA FLETCHER / KATE MULGREW - MURDER, SHE WROTE

Despite the fact that she's an accomplished novelist and a super crime sleuth; she still has time to dabble in the Sapphic sisterhood. No, I'm sorry but she's like a necrotic King Midas. Her friends drop like flies around her, I give Kate a week. Which is probably a good thing, that means they'll have no time to do anything more physical than hold hands which is just enough for me; Angela Lansbury is my surrogate grandmother. I've sat on her lap and ate Werther's Originals, in my head.

There is so much of this stuff to wade through that it would take me weeks but if you find weirder examples please send it to us at contact.tyci@gmail.com. As much as this article may appear to be deriding fanfic and femslash in this article, I do actually respect it. There is a wealth of well-written stuff out so have a look for yourself and, if you're really keen, World Femslash Day is 14 July.

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TYCI LIVE

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The latest episode of the TYCI podcast is online now and can be found at soundcloud.com/tyciblog. Our next Subcity show will be Thursday 24 April, 5 - 7pm. Tune in at subcity.org/shows/tyci.

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TYCI is a collective run by women.

We have a website where we write about things which affect us and put together features on art, theatre, music, film, politics, current affairs and most things in between. We also talk about similar stuff on our monthly podcasts and radio show on Subcity.

This zine is a collection of some of the content from our site and is distributed in conjunction with our monthly live events.

If you would like to get involved, reply to any of our articles or just generally say hi, hit us up on contact.tyci@gmail.com or visit tyci.org.uk.

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